

The Carillon



First Baptist Church of Penfield

May 2020

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Pastor's Meditation - May 2020

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Jesus, Matthew 28:19-20, NRSV.

At press time, church has been closed for over a month. Our most-recent Common Life dinner was March 8. (Wasn't that a great time?) Our most-recent public worship service was March 15. Since then, we have witnessed remarkable “attendance” for our

services on Zoom. The congregation has supported the church financially through this crisis. And the people of First Baptist have done praiseworthy things to support those in need. At the moment, the rate of transmission in New York is slowing. It's been challenging, but it's all working, folks!

New York State guidelines have made traditional “pastoring” temporarily impossible. Pastoral visits at home, hospitals and nursing homes are temporarily suspended. Most of us understand why: you don't want to contract Covid-19 and I don't want to either. What this pastor can still do: worship, preaching, leading One Year Bible Club, hosting and participating in “Get-togethers,” calling as many people as possible and conducting meetings of Penfield Ministerium. Such tasks can be done anywhere that has a phone and good internet.

As result, I am temporarily isolated at our farmhouse in Pennsylvania. I work during off-hours to prepare it to be rented out. Annette and I talk on the phone for an hour each night. I consider this a “win-win” situation; keeping isolated so I don't make myself or others sick, still doing every pastoral thing that New York State guidelines will permit and, if physically needed in Penfield, I can be home in a matter of hours.

Please accept my reassurances that I will be back in Penfield, permanently, when New York State restrictions end on May 15

(sooner if needed). You are a blessing to me and it is an honor to serve as your Pastor. You can reach me by cell phone (585-368-8643) or email (pastorbrotz@gmail.com) anytime so that I may support you through these days of isolation and uncertainty.

Whatever is going on in your life, I am more-than-happy to talk with you, at any time, for any length of time. Sometimes we pray over-the-phone. It's all a joy to me. But it's never been about me. My job is to point you to Someone else. In the fear that words like "pandemic" engender in all our hearts, don't forget Who ascended to Heaven, yet still promised to "be with you always." If I've done my job right, you are focused on Jesus. The Son of God transcends all of the guidelines the politicians can serve up. And He remains with us wherever we go. See you soon!



Moderator's Musings

Dear Church,

Well.....it's official! I am now your Moderator. I would like to thank Yvonne O'Brien for her past service and wise council as well as Jeff Phillips for being an unerring compass helping to chart our church's course-through calm and turbulent waters alike.

Thank your for your support and the support I have been receiving from many of you

regarding the on-line services and work being done by the church. It is important to note that, while I am the "man behind the curtain", there are a number of people who work to make the service possible. Each week I receive the bulletin, readings, and hymn lyrics from Sandra, I meet Naomi at the church on Saturdays to record the prelude and the postlude- coming up I will be meeting with Naomi AND Sally to record some solos and hymns, and Pastor Steve sends in any children's moments to be included in the service. Out of all of us, I am the most nerd, so it does fall on me to put it all together, however, please take time to thank those others without which the service would be much, much different!

The other day, before our Annual Meeting II, I was talking to a church member and I kept saying, "if I am voted in as moderator". He stopped me and asked, "do you really think you won't be voted in as Moderator"? I told him I didn't want to assume anything or take anything for granted.

This is, in fact, the mindful thinking I would like us all to embrace as we work through a **theme** I'd like to propose- that of "**Moving Forward**". In all that we do, I'd like us to ask the question, "how does what I am doing move us forward as a church"? Moving forward takes on a number of connotations- moving forward in our relationship with God, moving forward in serving the community, moving forward in promoting our church, moving forward in technology and

communications, moving forward in how our church accepts those in our community, and moving forward in building the relationships we have and the relationships we could have with people we don't yet know.

The mindfulness part is to try and recognize when we assume that "someone" is "doing it" or take for granted that our church and "business as usual" will continue next week, next month, or next year. This pandemic has proven that those assumptions are quickly turned on their ear as we are faced with adjusting and adapting to a new life and a new world order. This isn't easy but it is necessary.

Over the next year, my plan is to work with the Coordinating Council to develop and execute the theme of Moving Forward. This is something that has been going on but it is also something that has not always been at the forefront of our minds- however, in order to thrive and prosper as a church, we must always be looking forward to new opportunities and looking back- only to learn from our past as we step into a bright future.

I look forward to working with all of you this coming year and I pray that, someday soon, we will all be joining our voices in song, again, in the same room!

Peace and Understanding,
Michael Pray

May Birthdays

- 5 Donald Fox
- 10 Mary Durkee
- 12 Darcy Britt
- 12 Priscilla Dewey
- 13 Janette Keenan
- 14 Shirley Thomson
- 16 Dietlinde Payne
- 17 Christopher Britt
- 19 Bruce Blackman
- 19 Joshua Goodman
- 19 Marie Sandman
- 20 Diane Donatelle
- 21 Noah Pray
- 23 Joshua Britt
- 26 Pastor Steve



Men's Lunch
Thursdays at Noon

Canceled until Restaurants Reopen



Church Ladies' Lunch
Third Tuesday of each Month

Canceled until Restaurants Reopen

Note from the Trustees

The corona virus has created many disturbances to our lives, church activities and building usage. When New York State ordered all schools to close in mid-March, PVNS also closed. PVNS reached out to their student's families offering a 30 percent tuition discount for the month of April. In the spirit of working together and our long relationship with PVNS, the Trustees agreed to extend them a 30 percent discount on their April rent.

Respectfully,

Bruce Blackman, Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Sarah Phillips, David Trump

**Next Trustees Online Meeting
Tuesday May 12th, 6:00-8:00 pm**



Pledges and Donations

Just a reminder that all pledges and donations can be mailed into the church office and will be deposited, or you can also use the Donate button on the church website (for a small fee).

Thank you!

Jeff Bertrand

**History of Our
Stained Glass Windows**

One of the windows on the east side of the sanctuary was given in memory of Orestes Case, Sabbath school superintendent for about nine years from 1861 until a few months before his death in 1876

He had a steam operated sawmill on Plank Road.

One of his relatives, Elijah Case was out first preacher in 1804.

Marie Sandman



Alpha / A LIFE WORTH LIVING

Online until Further Notice

Offered Weekly, Every Thursday

Alpha/ A Life Worth Living Group.

The group is scheduled to end May 7th, longer if the group decides.

We will let you know.

An Internet link will be sent to the entire congregation. If you don't have Internet, please call Pastor Steve 585-368-8643 to learn how to attend by phone.

Questions? Call or Text

Pastor Steve Brotzman:

585-368-8643

Email: pastorbrotz@gmail.com

Church Website: fbpenfield.org

Year Through the Bible

Online until Further Notice

**Offered Weekly, Every Wednesday
One Year Bible Club will resume at
both 1 PM and 6 PM.**

All meetings will be online until further notice. An Internet link will be sent to the entire congregation, along with that week’s readings, so anyone can participate whether you’ve ever “joined the club” or not.

If you don’t have Internet, you can call Pastor Steve 585-368-8643 to learn how to attend by phone.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve



**Don’t Flip Out, But There Will Be
No Flapjack In May.**



Instead, contribute your time to another worthy effort and serve the Lord.

Bill & Jeff

**Notes From the
Pastoral Staff Relations Team**

Dear Congregation,

The Pastoral Staff Relations Team welcomes two new members ! Penny Goodman and Pat Casey are filling positions recently held by Ellen Stokes and Dick Andrews. Thank you Ellen and Dick for your time and support for our Pastor, our staff, and members of the congregation!

The PSR Team is made up of 5 members. Our mission is to provide focused and consistent support for the pastor and other church staff, and provide a channel of communication between the pastor and the congregation. If you have any praises, suggestions, or concerns to share, please reach out to one of the members. While we may not see you in church soon, we are available by phone or email.

- Libby Bertrand
- Pat Casey
- Alexandra Collison
- Penny Goodman
- Judy McNeil

We look forward to connecting with you!

The Pastoral Staff Relations Team



Church's Response to the Mennonite Family House Fire

In the early morning hours of April 10, Good Friday, smoke engulfed the home of Frank and Wilma Hoover and their eight children. Everyone escaped; however, they lost all their worldly possessions except the clothes on their backs.

Jim and I have known the Hoover family for many years and consider them good friends. On Monday following Easter, I sent an email to my church family explaining the disaster and listing some of their immediate needs such as toiletries, shoes, jackets, underwear, shirts, jeans, socks, etc. I set up drop off times at church as well as pick-up times and wrote that we would be going to Bluff Point, NY, to the Hoover farm, on Friday, just 5 short days from the writing of my email.

Your response was overwhelming! In this time of need, you, my church family, poured out your generosity and love to a family you have never met. Carol Morse, Jim, and I went laden with totes and garbage bags filled with your donations. We loaded a van, a pick up truck, and a trailer with all that we collected along with a generous monetary donation.

I don't have the words to thank you adequately. I was extremely touched and moved by the way you immediately opened your hearts to others in need. I can only say I

am very proud to be a part of the First Baptist Church of Penfield's church family.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!

Most Sincerely and with Much Gratitude,

Judy L. McNeil





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First Baptist Church of Penfield
1862 Penfield Road
Penfield, NY 14526



We have 3 methods of receiving the monthly newsletter.

Method 1—Open the link on our web page at www.fbpenfield.org

Method 2—Pick up your personal copy at Sunday Worship

Method 3—Receive a printed copy via US Postal Mail

Please help us to obtain a cost savings! Open the link or pick up!

If you wish to change your method, please e-mail us at

fbpenfield.@toast.net or call the Church Office at (585) 586-2876.

Our Church Staff

Rev. Steven D. Brotzman ~ Pastor

Dr. Naomi Gregory ~ Organist, Music Director

Francesca Lionetta, Luisa Hidalgo, Jeremy Lopez,

Kevin Spooner ~ Choral Scholars

Saundra Augustus ~ Office Assistant

Laura Swail ~ Nursery Care

Meho & Hava Kapidzic ~ Church Custodians

Contact Information

(585) 586-2876

E-mail ~ fbpenfield@toast.net

Website ~ www.fbpenfield.org

Find us on Facebook

Church Office Hours

Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 1:00 pm

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

*We welcome to our worship all who desire
to know God through Jesus Christ.*

*We encourage each other to develop a
relationship with God and to live as Christ
taught us.*

*We covenant together to seek out and
minister to those in spiritual, emotional or
physical need.*